1	2	3	4	5
Noida EPZ	367.00	496.89	586.53	775.00
Madras EPZ	281.38	391.92	992.42	1450.00
Cochin EPZ	102.53	120.31	165.36	210.00
Falta EPZ	32.31	24.04	29.15	100.00
Visakhapatnam EPZ	0.40	0.89	-	15.00
Total	2653.11	3235.63	4323.93	5600.00

(c) The performance of Export Processing Zones (EPZs) is under constant review and improvements in policy and procedure are effected on the basis of feed back from the trade and industry to ensure better performance and to increase exports from EPZs. Recent changes introduced in the Export-Import Policy include grant of additional Special Import Licence of 2% of FOB value of exports linked to achievement of higher level of exports of 25% or more than the stipulated export obligation, facility to supply/sell samples in the domestic market to procure export orders through buying agents and improving flexibility of operations by simplification of sub-contracting procedures.

Amendments in Article 324 of Constitution

*597. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Commission has suggested to amend the Article 324 of the Constitution to provide the same immunity and protection to the Election Commissioners in the matter of their removability from office as available to the Chief Election Commissioner;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Election Commission in this regard;

(c) whether the Govt. have considered the suggestion; and

(d) if so, by what time a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Election Commission has, among others, made the proposal that the method of appointment and the constitutional protection after appointment should be the same for the Chief Election Commissioner and the other Election Commissioners.

(c) and (d) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Supply of Coal

*598. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the annual demand for coal from power plants, steel plants, cement plants and railways during the last three years;

(b) the total quantum of coal supplied to these sectors during those years;

(c) whether adequate quantum of coal is not being supplied to these sectors;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to supply coal as per the requirement of railways, power plants, steel plants and cement plants in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Details regarding annual demand and supply of coal to power plants, steel plants, cement plants and Railways during the last three years are given below :-

(In million tonnes)

	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	Demand	Supply	Demand	Supply	Demand	Supply
Steel	34.50	34.56*	38.70	35.80*	40.50	34.80*
Power	174.00 (3.00)	166.45 (2.67)	191.00 (4.00)	187.79	210.00	202.71
Cement	13.10	11.12	15.30	11.00	17.50	11.25
Railways	2.20	0.66	0.70	0.27	0.40	0.12

*Includes imported coal.

(c) and (d) Adequate quantity of coal is being supplied to the power sector. As the PLF and the units generated are increasing year to year, decrease in supplies has occurred in some cases because of lack of demand consequent to decrease in power generation and also non-payment of coal supply dues. With regard to the cement sector there has been a sluggish demand and consequently several cement plants have not filed their programmes for lifting the linked quantity. Further, certain coast based cement plants import their coal requirements and these figures are not reflected in the above supply figures. As regards the steel sector, the full demand cannot be met from domestic sources because of quality constraint. Certain amount of coal has to be imported for blending and for direct feed purposes on technical considerations Supplies to Railways are coming down because of increased conversion to diesel and electric tractions.

(e) The steps being taken to increase production of coal are the following :-

(i) Increase in production from existing mines and by opening new mines.

(ii) Increase in efficiency.

(iii) Increase in investment in the coal sector by enabling coal mining by private companies for captive consumption.

Demand and Production of Paper

*599. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total demand and production of paper in the country during 1996-97 upto March 31, 1997;

(b) the quantity and value of the paper imported during the said period;

(c) efforts made by the Government during the Eighth Five Year Plan to increase the production of paper in the country; and

(d) steps proposed to be taken during 1997-98 and the Ninth Five Year Plan to fill the gap between demand and production of paper in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Total demand and production of paper during 1996-97 (upto February, 1997) is as follows :-

(lakh tonnes)

Year	Demand	Production
1996-97	30.28*	25.52

*Source : Report of the Committee on Action Plan for Pulp & Paper Industry-1996.

(b) During 1996-97 (upto 28.2.1997) 1.65 lakh tonnes of paper was imported at a value of Rs. 646.87 crores.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to increase the production/availability of paper in the country during the 8th Five Year Plan :-

(i) Paper units based on minimum 75% pulp derived from non-conventional raw materials are exempted from compulsory liensing subject to locational policy.

(ii) Low excise duty of 5% is levied on paper manufactured with not less than 75% non conventional raw material.

(iii) Custom duty on the import of paper has been brought down from 65% to 20%.

(iv) Excise duty on wood based paper & paper board